

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 MCT-01 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W
-----241803Z 024388 /46

P R 241405Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6293
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IS, PGOV
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH TWO HERUT LEADERS

1. POLITICAL OFFICER MET SEPARATELY ON MAY 22 WITH BRIG.
GEN. (RES.) MORDECHAI ZIPORI, EZER WEIZMAN'S DEPUTY AS
LIKUD CAMPAIGN MANAGER, AND JOSEPH ROM, TECHNION PROFESSOR
OF AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING, WHO HEADS THE LIKUD'S
TRANSITION COMMITTEE. ZIPORI LEFT THE IDF 4 1/2 MONTHS
AGO TO JOIN THE LIKUD CAMPAIGN. HE IS AN ARMOR OFFICER
AND PAST COMMANDANT OF ISRAEL'S COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF
COLLEGE. HE ALSO SERVED AS ASSISTANT CHIEF OF THE
OPERATIONS BRANCH (G BRANCH) OF THE GENERAL STAFF.
DURING THE YOM KIPPUR WAR HE HEADED THE IDF'S ARMORED
CORPS. ZIPORI WAS BORN IN ISRAEL THE GRANDSON OF
IMMIGRANTS FROM RUSSIA. A LONG TIME HERUT SYMPATHIZER,
ZIPORI SERVED IN THE IRGUN IN PRE-STATE DAYS,
WAS ARRESTED BY THE MANDATE GOVERNMENT AND SPENT FOUR
YEARS IN A BRITISH PRISON IN ERITREA.

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2. ZIPORI ATTRIBUTED THE LIKUD'S SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN
TO ITS TAKING THE INITIATIVE. THIS CONTRASTED WITH
PREVIOUS LIKUD CAMPAIGNS THAT WERE GENERALLY REFLEX
EFFORTS TO THE ALIGNMENT'S ATTACKS. THIS TIME LIKUD'S
CAMPAIGN DROVE HOME THE IDEA THAT ONLY THE LIKUD COULD
BRING ABOUT CHANGE --COULD REPLACE THE ALIGNMENT. VOTES
FOR OTHER PARTIES WERE VOTES TO RETAIN THE ALIGNMENT

IN POWER.

3. ZIPORI REPEATED WHAT WE HAVE HEARD MANY LIKUDNIKS STRESS--PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY--SINCE THEIR STUNNING UPSET: A LIKUD GOVERNMENT WILL BE HONEST WITH THE THE UNITED STATES. IT WILL STOP "CHEATING" AMERICAN OPINION. IT WILL TRULY REPRESENT ISRAELI INTERESTS AND NOT CONFUSE ISSUES BY HOLDING OUT THE PROMISE OF MORE THAN ISRAEL COULD POSSIBLY GIVE. HE ADDED THAT A LIKUD GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO RESTORE PRIDE IN ISRAEL AMONG DIASPORA JEWS. HE LIKENED THE SITUATION TO THE PRIDE AND ENTHUSIASM THAT SPONTANEOUSLY SWEEPED THROUGH JEWISH COMMUNITIES THE WORLD OVER AFTER THE SIX DAY WAR. HE WENT INTO ARGUMENTS OFTEN HEARD FROM LIKUD MEMBERS AND OTHERS ABOUT THE VALUE TO THE U.S. OF ISRAEL AS A STRONG ALLY IN THE VOLATILE AND VULNERABLE MIDDLE EAST. THE LIKUD WILL MOUNT AN EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN IN THE U.S. AMERICANS DON'T KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A MAJOR SEGMENT OF THE PALESTINIANS ARE THE DESCENDANTS OF ARABS WHO GRAVITATED TOWARD PALESTINE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES WITH THE ECONOMIC BOOM BROUGHT BY ZIONIST SETTLEMENT.

4. ZIPORI EXHIBITED SENSITIVITY TO THE AMERICAN PRESS' PORTRAYAL OF BEGIN AS A TERRORIST. "IS HE TO BE PUT IN THE SAME BOAT AS IDI AMIN? OR EVEN JOMO KENYATTA OR THE STALINISTS;" (IN MENTIONING THE LATTER TWO, ZIPORI SEEMED TO BE IMPLYING THAT JUST AS FORMER TERRORISTS ARE CONSIDERED RESPECTABLE BY MANY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT LEAST THE SAME DEFERENCE SHOULD BE PAID TO BEGIN.) THE IRGUN WAS AN ARMY OF NATIONAL LIBERATION, WHICH UNLIKE OTHERS STYLING THEMSELVES AS SUCH, DISBANDED UPON ACHIEVING ITS GOAL, BECAME A POLITICAL PARTY AND ENTERED THE COMPETITIVE MARKETPLACE OF ISRAELI DEMOCRACY TO CONVINCE THE ELECTORATE OF ITS IDEAS. NOW AFTER 29 YEARS THE PARTY HAS SUCCEEDED AND BEEN GIVEN THE MANDATE TO GOVERN.

5. ZIPORI SAID THAT THE LIKUD WILL MAKE A STRONG EFFORT TO BRING THE DMC INTO THE COALITION. HE EXPECTED THE GOVERNMENT TO BE FORMED BEFORE THE HISTADRUT ELECTIONS ON JUNE 21. THAT CONTEST HELD NO FEARS FOR HIM AS HE EXPECTED THE LIKUD TO DO WELL IN IT. ZIPORI WAS FAIRLY CONFIDENT OF AGUDAT YISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE COALITION AND TOOK THE NRP, SHLOMZION AND POALEI AGUDUT ISRAEL FOR GRANTED.

6. HE HAD LITTLE TO ADD TO HIS REPORT TO US ON MAY

20 (TEL AVIV 3607) ABOUT THE DIVISION OF PORTFOLIOS
EXCEPT TO INDICATE THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE DEPUTY
DEFENSE MINISTER UNDER WEIZMAN. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
PORTFOLIO WILL PROBABLY NOT BE SETTLED BEFORE COALITION
NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETED.

7. ROM, WHO CAUSED SOMETHING OF A STIR OVER A YEAR
AGO WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS JOINING THE LIKUD,
IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE ISRAEL PRIZE FOR HIS WORK IN
AERO-DYNAMICS. HE HAS BEEN OCCUPIED FOR THE LAST
SEVERAL MONTHS IN COMPILING LISTS OF PROSPECTIVE
APPOINTEES TO TOP LEVEL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. (BEFORE
THE ELECTION, FEW TOOK HIS PROJECT SERIOUSLY.) HE
SAID THAT THE CABINET WILL BE REORGANIZED AND REDUCED
TO 12-14 MINISTRIES. THE LIKUD INTENDS TO COMBINE THE
MINISTRIES OF POLICE AND INTERIOR; TOURISM WILL BE
ABSORBED BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY;
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COMMUNICATION AND TRANSPORTATION WILL BE COMBINED;
AND AN EXPANDED SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTRY WILL ABSORB
THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH, HOUSING AND POSSIBLY
IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION. HE MADE NO PREDICTIONS ABOUT
THE DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIOS BUT BELIEVED THAT AMNON
RUBENSTEIN OR SHMUEL TAMIR WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR
JUSTICE IF THE DMC JOINS THE COALITION.
LEWIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PARTY LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TELAV03643
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770185-0176
Format: TEL
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770522/aaaaasvn.tel
Line Count: 147
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0842d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2385230
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH TWO HERUT LEADERS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, IS, (ZIPORI, MORDECHAI), (ROM, JOSEPH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0842d18a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009